

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/626,897

Examiner

James R. Brittain

Applicant(s)

WEMMER, JEFFREY M.

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's communication of December 27, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8,9,14,15,17,25 & 26; renumbered 1-7, respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Schmidt (US 842498, figures 1-6) is the closest art of record and teaches an interlocking system comprising a plurality of discrete loops 9 sewable to a substrate to form two interdigitated loop columns. There is a locking member 13 that can extend through the interdigitated columns formed of discrete elements to lock the loops 9 together. In regard to claim 8, the differences are that the loops are discrete, not connected together to form oppositely facing loop columns, the loops are not molded and it lacks a latching mechanism with a first component for releasably securing the locking member in a predetermined position of engagement with the accessory adapter disposed on the accessory adapter and a second component disposed on the locking member wherein the first and second components of the latching mechanism are operably engaged when the locking member is fully inserted into the accessory adapter. While Fradin (US 4231135, figures 1,2) teaches the benefit of using a single loop column from plastic members 11, 12, there is no suggestion to modify Schmidt so that it would further have in combination a latching mechanism with a first component for releasably securing the locking member in a predetermined position of engagement with the accessory adapter disposed on the accessory adapter and a second component disposed on the locking member wherein the first and second components of the latching mechanism are operably engaged when the locking member is fully inserted into the accessory adapter. As to claim 14, the differences are that the loops are discrete, not connected together to form oppositely facing loop columns and it completely lacks at least one of the substrate adapter and the accessory adapter having at least two loop columns formed thereon, the column axes of the loop columns being oriented parallel to one another. While Fradin (US 4231135, figures 1,2) teaches the benefit of using a single loop column from plastic members 11,

Art Unit: 3677

12, there is no suggestion to modify Schmidt so that it would further have in combination at least one of the substrate adapter and the accessory adapter having at least two loop columns formed thereon, the column axes of the loop columns being oriented parallel to one another thereby.

Further, claims 8 and 14 differ with respect to Kirk et al. (US 5724707, figures 1-4) and the comparable Prior Art identified in Figures 1 and 2 of this application because Kirk et al. and the comparable Prior Art identified in Figures 1 and 2 of this application simply attach laterally extending flexible webs directly to the accessory object and substrate object and fails to define adapters each with a base having a bottom side for affixing to the respective object and a top side having the respective loop columns formed thereon. Applicant specifically identifies the failings of such prior art that lacks the adapter having a base, which carries the loop columns, in [0056] and applicant's claimed solution would clearly address the failings of the prior art identified by applicant and there is no suggestion to modify the teachings of Kirk et al. or the comparable Prior Art identified in Figures 1 and 2 of this application to have such structure.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The drawings were received on December 27, 2005. These drawings are approved.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Brittain whose telephone number is (571) 272-7065.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30-2:00.

Art Unit: 3677

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James R. Brittain
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

JRB